who love him, and he permits them to feed upon it in the presence of the enemy; and thus doing, they are encouraged.

6 In the year 536 B.C., Cyrus, the king of Persia, made a proclamation in which he stated of God's people, the Israelites: "Let [them] go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel." (Ezra 1:3) In the year 521 B.C., Darius the Persian succeeded this Cyrus as ruler of Persia. It was in the second year of the reign of this Darius, and approximately about the middle of August, that the Lord sent Haggai with this prophetic message. With the Jews it was then the vintage season when they would take an estimate of the blessings God had bestowed upon their fields and vineyards, and suggests a fulfilment of the prophecy at a time after much labor had been bestowed by the people of God upon the field and when the workers would take account of what God had done for them.

7 Acting under the decree and proclamation made by Cyrus the Jews returned to Palestine and began the rebuilding of the temple. The leaders in this work were Zerubbabel the governor, and Joshua the high priest. Those "religious hybrids" called "Samaritans" wanted to mix in the work of rebuilding the temple and thus defile it. Their proffered aid was positively refused; and it being refused, the Samaritans became the open adversaries of the Jews, interfered with the building operations, and hired counselors against the Jews to frustrate the work; and this opposition continued until the reign of Darius. The work on the temple was stopped for a period of sixteen years. This was due to the fear the Jews had of Satan's world power.

8 It has long been proverbial that 'the law of the Medes and the Persians changeth not'. Here was an occasion, however, which marked an exception. The decree originally issued by Cyrus had evidently been overlooked at the time the Jews were caused to stop work, and if they had reposed complete faith in God and proceeded immediately to place their case before the king of Persia doubtless that ruler would have caused thorough search to be made of the records, which, if made, would have disclosed the decree of Cyrus ordering the work done and the work would have proceeded. This is exactly what was done in the second year of the reign of Darius the Persian. This action was taken, however, only after the prophets Haggai and Zechariah had encouraged the Jews to proceed with the building of the temple, and then it was done.

9 There appears to be a modern correspondency with the aforementioned historical facts. In the year 1914 Christ Jesus, the Greater than Cyrus, and whom Cyrus had foreshadowed, came to the throne by order of Jehovah. The first act of this Mighty One was to oust from heaven Satan, the invisible ruler of Babylon his organization. The time had come for God's true people to go up to his organization, called "Jerusalem", and vigorously engage in the work of the Lord which relates to the upbuilding of the temple of God, and to do this in obedience to his commandments. Through his prophet God had said: "Gather yourselves unto me, ye my men of lovingkindness, who have solemnized my covenant over sacrifice."—Ps. 50:5, *Roth*.

10 Modern Samaritans, who are imitation Christians of so-called "Christendom", claimed that they would set up their own house of God by their own scheme, and their opposition to the true children of God became so great throughout the earth that the activities of God's workmen ceased until well near the end of 1919. As Elijah had fled because of fear, even so within the period of time just mentioned much fear was shown on the part of the people of the Lord because of the oppression and persecution by the modern Samaritans. As the spirit of God moved Haggai to prophesy and to encourage the resumption of the work on the temple, even so the spirit of the Lord God came upon his people whom we call collectively the "Society", or his visible organization on earth, and at the Cedar Point convention in 1919 the attention of the faithful was directed to the fact that the Scriptures showed that the Elijah work had ended and that the work foreshadowed by Elisha must now be done by the faithful members of God's organization.

11 These faithful ones were then called upon to proceed at once with the work and not to fear the wrath of Satan's representatives, but to proceed with boldness in the Lord and at all cost to do the work. But even then the work did not take on a real zeal and activity. Many consecrated showed a lack of interest in the work to be done, and continued to dream of things they had enjoyed in the past and what might still be their portion in the future. It was not until the eighth day of September, 1922, that the Lord stirred up the more zealous ones like unto Haggai, and then the Society called attention to the temple of the Lord and there went forth the slogan: "Advertise the King and the Kingdom." From that time dates the real activity amongst the Lord's people who are of the temple class and the work went steadily forward. These things help now to understand the prophecy and to apply the lesson that is taught thereby.

COMPANY ADDRESSED

12 It becomes important to determine to whom the message brought by the Prophet Haggai was addressed, both primarily and antitypically. Primarily the message of the Lord was sent unto Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, governor (otherwise called captain, margin) of Judah; and to Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest. The message was also to the remnant of the people of Israel. Since the record so accurately identifies the recipients of the message, we may be sure that this is important and that the names